IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph beginning on line 9, on page 31, with the following paragraph:

3). To minimise potential steric interference by cloned proteins with IL6 binding and IL6R function, DNA encoding a synthetic flexible linker peptide was then added to the 5' end of the truncated IL6R. Two alternative linkers have been used: Gly Gly Gly Gly Ser Gly Gly Gly Gly Ser (aa 1-10 of SEQ ID NO: 4) and a linker containing FLAG epitope, Gly Ser Asp Tyr Lys Asp Asp Asp Asp Lys (amino acids 1-10 of SEQ ID NO: 2) (FLAG epitope is underlined). The sequence of these linkers is shown in Fig. 9. In each case, the linker sequence has been cloned in frame with IL6R and has two unique cloning sites (XhoI and NotI) at its 5' end, allowing the introduction of cDNA libraries, or specific cloned sequences, in a directional manner. The FLAG epitope is recognised by a commercially available monoclonal antibody (M2; available from IBI/Kodak) regardless of its position within a fusion protein, and will thus allow the expression levels of surface protein to be measured directly by immunocytochemistry.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 9, 19, 22, 31, and 45 without prejudice and amend claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-21, 23-27, 29-30, 32-35, 37-40, 42-44, and 46-50 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An in vitro method of obtaining a gene product by expressing a DNA in a cell selected from the group consisting of an ES cell, an EC cell, and an EG cell, comprising:

(a) (i) transfecting the cell with a first vector that expresses a replication factor; or

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